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| | DOEE-00 | EUR-01 | HA-09 | H-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | L-03 |
| | ADS-00 | NEA-01 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-01 |
| | PM-02 | PRS-01 | P-01 | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SS-00 | TRSE-00 |
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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:LWEINTRAUB:LXW

APPROVED BY: IO:GFWARD

IO/UNP:CNPATTERSON

AF/C:CFULLER

P:EBRIMMER (INFO)

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DHAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153516

PARIS FOR PERLOW; BRUSSELS FOR DUBROW

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, UNSC, RW, OAU, UG

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SUBJECT: RWANDAN DEFENSE MINISTER LOOKS FOR PEACEKEEPERS

REF: STATE 117028

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: RWANDAN DEFENSE MINISTER GASANA TOLD ACTING
IO A/S WARD THAT AN OAU FORCE OF 50 OFFICERS CANNOT
EFFECTIVELY MONITOR A BUFFER ZONE OF 3,000 SQUARE MILES,
FROM WHICH APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
DISPLACED. THE OAU FORCE NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED TO 500 AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 20 MAY 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2011 201005065

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SUPPORTED WITH OUTSIDE (READ UN) EXPERTISE AND DEPLOYED AHEAD OF A PEACE AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING WHICH IT WOULD BE REPLACED BY A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE NOW UNDER DISCUSSION IN ARUSHA. A UN BORDER MONITORING FORCE OF A SIMILAR SIZE WOULD ALSO BE OF GREAT HELP AND SHOULD BE DEPLOYED IMMEDIATELY. GASANA OPINED THAT THE FORCES WOULD BE NEEDED UNTIL ELECTIONS, MEANING A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR OR LONGER, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ARUSHA NEGOTIATIONS. WARD SAID THAT THE USG IS CONCERNED ABOUT RWANDA'S NEEDS, ESPECIALLY THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS, BUT NOTED THAT THE UN IS HAVING

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DIFFICULTIES IN STAFFING AND PAYING FOR ITS ALREADY-ESTABLISHED PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. GIVEN THESE CONSTRAINTS, THE USG WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL. END SUMMARY.

3. RWANDAN DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES GASANA MET MAY 17 WITH IO ACTING A/S GEORGE F. WARD. AMBASSADOR ALOYS UWIMANA AND A MILITARY AIDE WERE ALSO ON THE GOR SIDE. THE USG SIDE INCLUDED DESK OFFICER CAROL FULLER AND IO/UNP

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OFFICERS LEON WEINTRAUB AND ROBERT PATTERSON.

4. GASANA DESCRIBED A SITUATION IN RWANDA WHERE UP TO ONE MILLION PERSONS, APPROXIMATELY ONE-SEVENTH OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION, HAVE BEEN DISPLACED, SOME OF THEM MORE THAN FIVE TIMES. THE OAU NEUTRAL MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (NMOG), WHICH CONSISTS OF ONLY 40 OFFICERS FROM NIGERIA, SENEGAL, MALI, AND ZIMBABWE, WITH FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS EACH FROM THE GOR AND THE RPF, IS "VERY, VERY WEAK," AND UNABLE TO MONITOR A BUFFER ZONE NOW CLOSE TO 3,000 SQUARE MILES, AN AREA RECENTLY ENLARGED BY A FACTOR OF TEN. IN ADDITION TO SUCH OVERWHELMING OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES, GASANA ALLEGED THAT THE FIVE RPF MEMBERS IN THE NMOG MISUSED THEIR PRESENCE (FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES). HE ALSO NOTED THE OAU'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, CLAIMING THAT MANY OF THE INEXPERIENCED OAU OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN SIDES IN THE CONFLICT. GASANA EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION AS WELL WITH THE OAU'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR RWANDA'S PROBLEMS, CITING RWANDA'S OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR THE OAU MONITORING PRESENCE IN HIS COUNTRY. HE IS LOOKING FOR NHELP FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, HE STATED.

5. THE RPF MAY SAY THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE BUFFER

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ZONE, GASANA SAID, BUT THEY HAVE ONLY CHANGED THEIR UNIFORMS FOR CIVILIAN CLOTHES. THAT IS WHY THE OAU FORCE NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED, ASSISTED WITH UN TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, AND DEPLOYED AHEAD (AND IN ANTICIPATION) OF A PEACE AGREEMENT. ONLY IN THIS MANNER CAN DISPLACED PERSONS BE ENCOURAGED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND FURTHER MASS POPULATION MOVEMENTS PREVENTED, THE DEFENSE MINISTER

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CONTINUED.

6. A MONITORING FORCE ALONG THE COUNTRY'S 180 KM MOUNTAINOUS BORDER WITH UGANDA WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL FOR THE SAME REASON, GASANA SAID. HE CLAIMED THAT ANOTHER CEASEFIRE VIOLATION LIKE THE RPF ATTACK OF FEBRUARY WOULD THREATEN MANY MORE THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE. HE ADDED THAT HE IS WAITING FOR A REPORT FROM THE SYG'S TEAM THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN IN UGANDA AND WOULD NEXT DISCUSS THIS ISSUE

WITH THE OAU IN ADDIS ABABA.

7. WARD TOLD GASANA THAT HE HOPES THE UN CAN STRENGTHEN THE OAU PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN RWANDA, BUT THE UN IS ALREADY HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN STAFFING AND PAYING FOR ONGOING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN KUWAIT, SOMALIA, AND CYPRUS. EACH SUCH OPERATION FURTHER BURDENED AN ALREADY OVERSTRETCHED UN SYSTEM, EXPLAINING TO SOME DEGREE THE GREAT RELUCTANCE OF THE UNSYG TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD ESTABLISHING A UN PEACEKEEPING PRESENCE IN RWANDA. WE WILL HAVE TO WATCH THE SITUATION IN RWANDA CLOSELY, WARD SAID, AND FIND THE MOST "MANPOWER EFFICIENT" MEANS FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM. HE THEN ASKED GASANA WHAT SPECIFIC KIND OF HELP HE MIGHT LOOK FOR FROM THE UN.

8. GASANA REPLIED THAT AROUND 500 UN TROOPS ARE NEEDED TO DEPLOY ALONG THE UGANDA-RWANDA BORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SIMILARLY, HE SAW A NEED FOR AN ENLARGED UMOG OF AROUND 500 OAU TROOPS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT. THE OAU TROOPS WOULD SERVE IN RELATIVELY SMALL UNITS TO FACILITATE EASE OF

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MOVEMENT WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF OPERATION AND WOULD REMAIN UNTIL A POTENTIAL UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE (SUCH AS IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED BY THE PARTIES IN ARUSHA) IS FORMED AND ARRIVES FOLLOWING THE PEACE AGREEMENT. AT THAT POINT, THE UN BORDER FORCE AND UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE SHOULD BE COMBINED UNDER A JOINT COMMAND AND REMAIN UNTIL TRAINING AND INTEGRATION OF THE ARMY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND ELECTIONS HELD. THE GOR WOULD LIKE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN A "SHORT TIME" OF ABOUT ONE YEAR, BUT THE RPF HAS SUGGESTED A THREE-TO-FOUR YEAR PERIOD. GASANA SUGGESTED THAT THE TOTAL UN STRENGTH WOULD NEED TO BE 1,800, IMPLYING A NEED FOR 800 SUPPORT PERSONNEL IN ADDITION TO THE TWO 500-PERSON GROUPS (COMMENT: IN HIS ANSWER TO THE SAME QUESTION POSED BY AF IN AN EARLIER MEETING, GASANA CITED A TOTAL FIGURE OF 1,000. END COMMENT).

9. GASANA SAID THAT HE HAD PLANS TO SEE THE SYG AND THE UNSC PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK MAY 18, WHERE HE WOULD FURTHER OUTLINE HIS IDEAS. WARD SAID THE USG WOULD REMAIN ATTENTIVE TO RWANDA'S NEEDS AND WOULD WATCH THE DISPLACED PROBLEM WITH DEEP CONCERN FOR SECURITY. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIELD NEW UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES, HE SAID, BUT WE WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE POSSIBLE.

10. COMMENT:

HE CLARIFIED AFTER THE MEETING THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS OF 500 TROOPS ON THE BORDER AND ANOTHER 500 FOR THE OAU NMOG WERE ONLY EARLY PLANNING FIGURES AND NOT
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SET IN STONE. HE CONTINUED SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT THE GOR HAS NOT SEEN THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE UN TECHNICAL MISSION ON THE BORDER FORCE WHICH SUGGESTS A FIGURE OF 80 TROOPS, AND THAT THE GOR'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROPOSAL COMES ONLY FROM THE RPF'S FORMAL RESPONSE LETTER OF APRIL 19.

END

COMMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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